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GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
AGRICULTURE
OF THE COUNTY OF
NORFOLK.

WITH
OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT.

By NATHANIEL KENT, Esq.

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

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GENERAL VIEW

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NOTES



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following valuable communication, respecting the present state of Husbandry in the County of Norfolk, and the means of its improvement, drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture, is now printed, merely for the purpose of its being circulated there, in order that every person, interested in the welfare of that county, may have it in his power to examine it fully before it is published. It is therefore requested, that any remark, or additional observation, which may occur to the reader, on the perusal of the following sheets, may be transmitted to the Board of Agriculture, at its office in London, by whom the same shall be properly attended to; and, when the returns are completed, an account will be drawn up of the state of Agriculture in Norfolk, from the information thus accumulated, which, it is believed, will be found greatly superior, to any thing of the kind, ever yet made public.

The Board will probably follow the same plan, in regard to all the other counties in the united kingdom; and, it is hardly necessary to add, will be happy to give every assistance in its power, to any person who may be desirous of improving his breed of cattle, sheep, &c. or of trying any useful experiment in husbandry.

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INTRO-

ADVERTISING

THE following valuable communication, respecting the
present state of Huddersley in the County of Yorkshire,
and the means of its improvement, drawn up for the con-
sideration of the Board of Agriculture, is now before
us. It is the property of the Board, and is to be
published in the form of a Report.

ERRATA.

- P. 10, l. 24, *for meadow land, read meadow lands*
 — l. 25, *for is, read are*; and for *confits, read confits*
 — 11, l. 14, *after value, insert and*
 — 24, l. 10, *for Wyburn, read Weyburn*
 — 31, l. 15, *for cofts, read cost*
 — 43, l. 9, *for alh, read alp*
 — 52, l. 1, *after cattle, insert &c*
 — 55, l. 25, *for symmetry, read symmetry*
 — l. 33, *for stubble, read stubb*

INTRODUCTION.

THE superior benefits resulting to society from Agriculture, are so conspicuous, that it is impossible they should escape the observation of a speculative mind. Other improvements carry only local advantage; but those of Agriculture are diffusive of general good to mankind. It is unquestionably the first of all sciences, as it nurses and supports the rest: it is therefore deserving the greatest encouragement from all ranks of men, who are able to promote its improvement, whether by liberal aid, industry, or talents. As an individual, I feel the utmost satisfaction in making a free-will offering to the public of my mite of information on the present occasion, and am glad to find that Government has at last sanctioned this important object. By the aid it may receive from this respectable quarter, and from the zeal and perseverance of the active members who are placed at the head of the new establishment, much may be expected; and as professional men from all districts, are called forth, to make their full and free observations upon the husbandry of the parts with which they are most familiar, it is to be presumed, that a great deal of useful information will be brought together, after which a judicious selection will undoubtedly be made, highly to the advantage and improvement of the public; for as many men will, of course, describe the same object, it will be necessary, for the sake of brevity, to winnow the chaff from the corn, taking what is good from every man, and rejecting the dross.

Thus, all who embark in this business, may have the satisfaction to find they contribute something to the welfare of the great object on foot; and though the subject they aim to describe, may not be published exactly in their own words, their ideas will at least be blended in the great body of the work.

For remarks and additional observations.

PURPORT OF THE ENQUIRY.

For remarks and additional
observations.

IT is to be presumed, that the design of the Board, is to inform itself of the present State of Husbandry in every County, with a view to give all the encouragement in its power, to such practices, which have a beneficial tendency, and to put out of countenance such as are carried on upon erroneous and obstinate principles.

There is no doubt, but great advantage will be derived from a plan of this sort. In the first place, every soil in the kingdom will be described, and its right use pointed out, which is the first step to good husbandry.

Cattle will, of course, be largely treated of, and the judicious farmer be enabled to distinguish how far he can rationally improve his native stock, and how far mix the breed to advantage with cattle of another district; and, at the same time, avoid the rock which a great number of people at this time split upon, in hastily changing their present stock for another, perhaps too large, and totally inapposite to the nature of the land.

Buildings will likewise be another consideration, of great moment, as it is an object, that greatly affects the profit of estates; therefore, the selection of the best kind of materials, and the adoption of the best plans, combined in comfort and frugality, will be found highly deserving the attention of the landed interest.

Implements of husbandry will be found deserving the attention of farmers, and in many instances may be changed to advantage.

In short, a thousand useful subjects and experiments will be treated on, so largely and so satisfactorily, (that nothing fallacious can be allowed to stand where so many persons, writing

For remarks and additional
observations.

ting upon the same subject, must correct each other) that there will be no occupier of land but may derive some additional knowledge to what he is now in possession of; for when all the best and worst practices are fairly exhibited, a person must be deficient in common sense not to adopt the one, and explode the other.

EXTENT, CONTENTS, AND POPULATION.

THE county of Norfolk, in its greatest length, due east and west, is 59 miles; and in its greatest breadth, from north to south, 38 miles. At the ends it is not so broad; but in the whole it contains 1,710 square miles, and 1,094,400 acres. The several divisions of this large tract of land are difficult to ascertain, but according to the nearest calculation that I have been able to make, they may be taken up in a general way, thus:

The space on which the towns stand,	- - - - -	1500
Public and private roads,	- - - - -	16416
Lakes and rivers,	- - - - -	2000
Sedgy and swampy ground,	- - - - -	1500
Unimproved commons,	- - - - -	80000
Woods and plantations,	- - - - -	10000
Arable land, computed at two thirds of the whole county,	- - - - - }	729600
Meadows, parks, and upland pasture,	- - - - -	126692
Marsh lands,	- - - - -	63346
Warrens and sheep walks,	- - - - -	63346
Total of acres,		1094400

For remarks and additional
observations.

The population of the city of Norwich was ascertained in the year 1693, when it was found to contain 28,881 souls; and again in 1752, when it was found to have increased to 36,169; but the trade was then in high reputation, and the city said to be very healthy; and as the trade has since rather declined, it cannot be supposed the population has much increased since, though it is generally understood, that there are now about 40,000 souls in Norwich, 10,000 in Lynn, and 16,000 at Yarmouth.

As to the smaller towns and villages, I have considered them partly from a general average of houses, and partly in proportion to the number of cultivated acres of land; and though calculations of this kind must not be looked on as accurate, I consider the whole number of people in the county to be about 220,000.

FORM AND ASPECT.

THE surface, except in some few parts, near Norwich, and upon the coast, near Sherringham and Cromer, is mostly a dead flat, consequently the aspect is in general uniform and uninteresting, and as the open, and worst parts, lie to the south west, where strangers enter the county, it must offer to them a very dreary and barren appearance; but all the north, north east, and south east parts, are inclosed; and being as well, if not better cultivated, than any other part of the kingdom, and certainly much richer in timber, than any other maritime county, exhibit at least many cheerful and pleasant views, but none that are very extensive or romantic.

NATURAL

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

THESE consist in good roads, a great proportion of sea and river navigation, a great store of excellent manure, and an enterprising and industrious race of inhabitants.

In support of my first assertion, I can boldly say, that the roads are better in their natural state, than in almost any other county; so good, that no turnpike was thought of in Norfolk, till they became common in most other parts; so good, that Charles the Second, when he honoured the Earl of Yarmouth with a visit at Oxmead, is said to have observed, that Norfolk ought to be cut out in slips, to make roads for the rest of the kingdom; by which he, undoubtedly, meant to compliment the county upon the goodness of its roads, above other counties. In short, the roads, though often called bad by Norfolk men, are so good, comparatively with those in other counties, that where the common statute duty is fairly done, a traveller may cross the country in any direction, in a post chaise, without danger; and where the duty is not done, may trot his horse from one parish to another, at the rate of six miles an hour.

The second is a very considerable advantage, not only in the saving of carriage, but by enabling the farmer to avail himself of the level of distant markets. The navigation by sea, and rivers, almost belts the country round, from Yarmouth to the mouth of the Nile; the sea is the boundary, being eighty miles. The great Ouze is navigable from Lynn, twenty-four miles through the country, and then communicates with seven of the midland counties; the little Ouze branches from the great Ouze, and is navigable, by Brandon, to Thetford; the Wavenny is navigable from Yarmouth, by Beccles, to Bungay; the Yare is navigable from Yarmouth to the populous city of Norwich; and the Bure, from Yarmouth to Aylsham, exclusive of several smaller cuts to private estates.

The

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observations.

The third natural advantage is almost peculiar to this county; for though there are large stratum of marl in most other counties, I have never seen any of so good a quality, or so easy to be got at, as it is to be found in most parts of this county, and in many places very near the surface. Mr. Marshall, in his Rural Economy of Norfolk, a work of great merit, describes two sorts of marl, and enters into a chemical investigation of their natures. Suffice it, on the present occasion, to say, that it is of inestimable value; twelve cart loads to an acre of the white, or rather yellow marl, will, the second year after it is laid on, change the nature of land; most of the exhausting weeds which impoverish the soil, and choak the corn in its infancy, are effectually destroyed, as it has a great tendency to keep land clean; it braces the pores of the earth closer together, and increases its fertility to a surprising degree; its benefit, though not to the effect it produces at first, is felt for thirty years; when a second marling, of about half the original quantity, may with propriety be used; but it has been found by experience, that it does best the second time, compounded with muck or maiden earth. I should add, that as it is of a ponderous nature, it suits best on lay land, by which means it mixes sooner, and better, with the native soil.

The other species of marl is, more properly speaking, a clay, impregnated with marly particles, and though good in quality, is certainly much inferior to the other, as it requires more than double the quantity to carry the same improvement.

The fourth natural advantage results from the industry of the inhabitants, who are active and persevering, in whatever they undertake, and have certainly the merit of having cultivated thousands of acres of land, which in any other county, except some parts of Suffolk, where there is a congenial disposition, would have been despised, and suffered to lie in an unproductive state.

NATURE OF THE SOIL.

For remarks and additional
observations.

THE greatest part of the arable land is sandy. The prime parts of the county lie north, and north-east of Norwich; comprising the hundreds of East and West Flegg, South Walsham, Blofield, Happing, Henstead, and the greatest part of North and South Erpingham; all which may be denominated a true sandy loam, equal in value to the best parts of the Austrian Netherlands, to which it is similar. It is highly fruitful, and so temperate and pleasant to work, that it is rarely injured by wet or drought, so that the occupier is seldom put out of his rotation of cropping. It is very unlucky for the credit of Norfolk, that this part of the county is, by its distant situation, less known to strangers than any other part.

The district south and south-east of Norwich, consisting of the hundreds of Loddon, Clavering, Henstead, Earsham, Difs, Depwade, and Humilyard, as well as some parts of Fourhoe and Mytford, though chiefly sand, have an occasional mixture of clay, and are, in many parts, wet, and full of springs; but yet these parts are fruitful, though to a less degree than the former; they are likewise less pleasant and more expensive to work.

The largest proportion of the county lies west and north-west of Norwich, comprising the hundreds of Taverham, Eynford, Holt, North Greenhoe, Gallow, Launditch, Brothercrofts, Smethdon, Freebridge, and Clackclose. There is some very good land in different parts of this district; but upon the whole, it is a very inferior country to the two preceding districts. It runs, in general, light, and its best dependence is upon the fold. This is what is called West

Norfolk,

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Norfolk, and is the part which Mr. Young described in his first Norfolk Tour; and on account of the three great houses of Holkham, Houghton, and Rainham, is the part which strangers are most acquainted with. It is here, that great farms are to be found, with a thin population; and if it were not for the occasional assistance derived from the eastern part of the county, there would often be a want of hands in the harvest, and other busy seasons.

The hundreds of Shropham, Gyticrofs, Weyland, South Greenhoe, and Grimshoe, lying south-west of Norwich, run upon a still lighter sand; so light, that in the last mentioned hundred, the sand very often, in a high wind, drifts from one parish to another. This is the part where the great rabbit warrens are found, which upon this soil pay better than any other thing the land could be appropriated to.

Marsh land may be considered as a hundred by itself. The soil is a rich ooze, evidently a deposit from the sea: the north part is highly productive; but the south part very much injured for want of better drainage, about which there is now a contest between the proprietors of these lands and the town of Lynn, the merits of which I must decline entering into, as the object will very soon be brought before parliament.

THE MEADOW LAND,

IN most parts of the county, is alike, and consists chiefly of a dead moor. They carry in their natural state a very coarse appearance, being spongy and full of rushes; yet they are seldom wet in themselves, but chiefly so from being dript upon by the springs which issue out of the arable land which lies above them. The best mode of draining these meadows

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is to keep the rivulet open, to a free discharge in the lowest parts, and to cut two very deep drains, one on each side, parallel with the rivulet, just between the arable and meadow land, where the springs generally shew themselves; and these two drains, if they are sunk deep enough to get below the springs, will, nine times out of ten, lay the meadows dry; the next thing is to spread upon them ten or twelve loads of small gravel or sand, per acre, which will tend more than any thing to give them firmness, fine the surface, and sweeten the herbage, by encouraging what is called the Dutch Clover to spring, with which the earth is every where impregnated. I have found, by considerable experience, that this is the best improvement for Norfolk meadows. Mr. Marshall recommends watering, and says it would double their value; Mr. Colhoun, and some other spirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Thetford, have lately introduced the practice there; to which I wish most hearty success, but am much inclined to doubt its being extended to any great benefit in this county, for I have tried it more than once. It is an improvement that ought to be introduced wherever circumstances are in its favour, but I have not found it answer here, for two substantial reasons, because the country is so flat that you cannot bring the water on with a sufficient spirit; and if you could, the soil is so dead, it would not have the effect it has upon a gravel. It is the first of all improvements undoubtedly, where it can be effected, and where the soil is of a quick and lively nature. It generally answers, if it be ever so poor. I shall expect to see water meadow well described in the publications upon Hants, Dorset, and Wilts, where they are well understood.

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THE WOOD LAND,

OF an old standing, is not considerable; a single wood, or coppice, is found here and there, but no great tract together; nor are they remarkable for any particular application of the underwood. The mere purpose of sheep hurdles, and of materials for thatching, constitutes its chief use; but as the management of woods is a very essential part of rural economy, I hope my nephew, Mr. Pearce, will do justice to this subject, in his Account of Berkshire, where woods are more numerous.

THE MARSH LANDS,

EXCLUSIVE of what I have before mentioned, lie chiefly in two places; one part of them upon the north coast, from Brancaster to Clay, which is of an exceeding good quality: but a much larger proportion of them lie between Norwich and Yarmouth, and though most of these are under water, during the winter, they are in general so good that many of them will fat a bullock at an acre and an half to a bullock, and all of them are capable of bringing cattle very forward in the course of the summer.

THE COMMONS

LIE in all parts, and are very different in their quality. Those in the neighbourhood of Wymondham and Attleburgh are equal to the finest land in the county, worth at least

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observations,

least twenty shillings an acre, being capable of making either good pasture, or producing corn, hemp, or flax. There are other parts which partake of a wet nature, and some of a furze and heathy quality; but they are most of them worth improving, and all of them capable of producing something: and it is a lamentable thing, that those large tracts of land should be suffered to remain in their present unprofitable state. The arguments for the continuance of commons in their present state are, in general, fallacious; and though specious, are grounded on mistaken principles of humanity. The advantage they would be to society, if properly cultivated, would be very great, and the attention of the new Board will, I trust, soon be fixed upon this important object, so as to find the means of removing the great impediments which prevent their inclosure, upon which I shall have more to observe under the head of Common Fields.

After making a fair deduction for roads, there are supposed to be somewhat more than eighty thousand acres; and from observation and inquiry, I find that, (taking this up in a comparative point of view, with a more enlarged calculation I made upon the waste lands in general throughout the kingdom, which I have just published as a Supplement to my book of HINTS*) this tract of land, in this single county, supposing only two-thirds of it were cultivated, would afford additional employment for ten thousand people, the benefit resulting from which, in a manufacturing and trading country, I leave to the financier to estimate.

COURSE OF CROPPING.

THE course of cropping upon all parts of the arable land is endeavoured to be fixed by the landlord under a six-course shift; wheat, the first year; barley, without seeds, the second;

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* To be had at DODSLEY'S, in Pall-Mall.

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second; turnips, the third; barley or oats, with seeds, the fourth; clover mowed, the fifth; and clover, grazed and broken up at midsummer, the sixth. But the occupier will often endeavour to contract it to a five-course shift, by sowing his wheat upon clover of one year's lay, and in some of the best parts, as in the Flegg, Tanstead, and Blofield hundreds, some tenants carry on only a four-course shift; thus, wheat, turnips, barley, and clover. This last is quite similar to the practice of great part of Flanders, where the invariable method is to carry an alternate crop for man and beast; but as land, though ever so good, will grow tired of a too frequent repetition of turnips and clover, some inconvenience is occasionally sustained; to remedy which, they will do well to change the former of these, now and then, for a vetch crop, and the latter for trefoil or lucern. No course of husbandry can be more profitable than this, where the soil will allow it; and there are many parts of this county where it may be carried on without doing any injury to the land. I consider the five-course shifts to be more unfair than the four, because, in this case, there are three crops of corn to two crops for the animal. This mode of cropping would be better, if the barley crop, after wheat, was sometimes changed for buckwheat, which would neither be an unprofitable or exhausting crop; and thus a little varied, the practice of a five-course cropping might be allowed in the parts where the soil is good in quality; but in the great western parts of the county, the course of six shifts ought to be strictly adhered to; and there is something very rational in this six-course husbandry upon a light soil; for though the exhausting and fertilizing crops do not follow alternately, as in the four-course shift, yet there is an equal number of each observed in the rotation. I think, however, in the very light parts of the county, that a seven-course shift would be an improvement; but I do not mean by letting the land remain three years laid, as some have recommended, because the Norfolk land does not yield much profit from seeds after the first year: but I would



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I would rather recommend the following course ; wheat vetches, barley, buck, turnips, barley, clover. This would keep the turnips and clover crops at such a distance, that there would be no fear of their success ; and as the buck might be considered as a neutral crop, the alternate advantage would not in fact be lost in its good effect. I believe, too, that by means of the vetches, more stock would be kept on very light land than from the present six-course shift.

And now a word or two respecting the practical part of the business.

Ploughing is certainly done with much greater ease in this county than any other, and much cheaper, as it does not stand the farmer in above 3s. 6d. an acre for each tilth. There is no instance of more than two horses being put to a plough : the same person who holds the plough drives the horses also with reins. *See the descriptive sketch of it.*

The horses are short and compact, but active and hardy, and seldom exceed fifteen hands. Instead of working them seven hours in winter and eight in summer, as they do in most other counties, without drawing their bits, they are worked eight hours in winter and ten in summer, by two journeys, as they are termed, which enable them to do considerably more than they would by one journey, as it is evident that a horse would go two twelve-mile stages a-day upon the road, with as much ease, for a constancy, as he would twenty miles at one stage ; besides, the heat in summer is more avoided by this means. The common day's work for two horses is a statute acre, and, in times of seeding, it is very common to plough an acre and an half.

One man looks after four horses and drives two of them ; the other two are driven by a day-labourer, who does little jobs about the yard, at the interval, while his horses rest, and in the evening.

As ploughing is done here with so much ease, it is an encouragement to the farmer to give it the more tilths, which,
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in some measure accounts for the land being so clean ; but I apprehend there is another reason, which is, the shallow ploughing observed in this county, compared with many other parts of England. Land is undoubtedly kept cleaner by shallow than deep ploughing ; and, in light land, the moisture is more preserved by having a pan at the bottom ; and there is likewise a much less body of earth to manure and keep in heart. The great secret with ploughed land seems to be in keeping it so clean that nothing shall grow but what is sown upon it ; and to keep the surface in a pulverized state, so as to be open and mellow to receive benefit from the influence of the atmosphere.

In treating of the process in feeding, I shall begin with wheat. This is partly dibbled and partly sown broad-cast : the former is not in so high estimation as it was some years since ; but I am of opinion, that when wheat is planted upon clover of only one year's lay, it is the best practice, especially if the dibblers are well looked after, for in this case it will admit of a saving of a bushel of corn to an acre. This saving is an important advantage, as a bushel of wheat is enough to support a man two months, as the average consumption is six bushels a-year to every human mouth ; and if we value the bushel of wheat which is saved, at six shillings, the farmer is only four and sixpence out of pocket, as he can have it done very well for half-a-guinea an acre, and the corn is generally better bodied, and somewhat heavier. When sown upon one year's lay, it never has but one ploughing ; and when it is sown upon a second year's lay, it never has but two. The old practice was, to break up the second year's lay soon after the spring grass was eaten off ; but now it is seldom touched till after Lammas, and then the best way is just to pare up part of the sward by a sort of half-ploughing cross the ridges, just curling the ploughed part over the unbroken part, in an inverted state, and, when the turf is deadened, to cross-harrow it ; and at the wheat-feeding to plough it up, in the straight way
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of the ridges, to its fall and proper depth. The turf by this means falls to the bottom, and operates as an assistant manure. I have nothing to recommend in addition to this practice, but that the farmer should take care not to be too late; as it has been remarked, that, as near the time as possible that nature sheds any particular seed, it always grows with more certainty, and therefore less seed is required, when sown early, than when sown late: about Michaelmas is the height of the season here; it never should be delayed above a fortnight after.

The barley is put into the ground in excellent condition. When it follows wheat, the stubble generally has turnips thrown upon it till Christmas, when it is scale ploughed in two furrow ridges, and afterwards has four earths.

But the great piece of husbandry in which Norfolk excels, is in the management of turnips, from which it derives an inestimable advantage. This important crop is the great source of abundance to the country, and has been gradually rising to perfection in its cultivation, for upwards of seventy years. Not only this county, but many other parts of England, are indebted to the Townsend family, for the original introduction of this root into this country. Before that time turnips were only cultivated in gardens and small spots, and hoed by gardeners; but in the reign of George the First, the then Lord Viscount Townsend, grandfather of the present noble Marquis, attended the King to Hanover, in the quality of Secretary of State; and observing the advantage of this valuable root, as there cultivated at that time, and the fertility it produced, brought the seed and practice into England, and recommended it strongly to his own tenants, who occupied a similar soil to that of Hanover. The experiment succeeded, and by degrees it gradually spread over this county, and in the course of time, to other parts of England, though their cultivation is by no means so general as it continues here. A good acre of turnips in Norfolk will produce between thirty and forty cart loads, as heavy as three horses can draw; and an acre will

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will fat a Scotch bullock, from forty to fifty stone; or eight sheep. I wish I could close this short history of turnips, without lamenting, that the ground does not relish them so well as formerly, so that great care is necessary in raising them, and more seed is required: after all, it is a teasing and precarious crop, and admits of no certain rules to ensure absolute success; though some cautions may be worth stating in this place. The first ploughing should not be later than Christmas, and should be to its full depth, unless the land is foul, in which case it should be ploughed very fleet the first time, in two furrow ridges, and the second time to the full depth; but it should never be ploughed in wet weather. After the first fallow has received the benefit of the frost and snow, it should be harrowed down in March. The next ploughing should be as soon as the barley sowing is over, and it should have five earths in all; the last ploughing but one, the dung is ploughed in very fleet, and rolled down; and the last should be about a fortnight after, not later, as the muck will about that time begin to ferment. About twelve loads an acre is a proper dressing. There is, perhaps, no part of husbandry more deserving imitation by the rest of England than this. Some persons use rape-cake for turnip manure; and Mr. Styleman, of Snettisham, a gentleman of considerable fortune, who farms part of his estate upon a large scale, and is trying many ingenious experiments, uses it in a pulverized state, to which he reduces it by means of two mills worked by two women, each mill being formed of two cylinders, revolving towards each other. The first breaks the cake into pieces of the size of a walnut, by the operation of cogged cylinders; the second is constructed of plain cast iron cylinders, similar to those used for grinding clay to make bricks. Thus reduced to powder, he puts it into the very drills, where he had just before deposited the turnip seed, by means of Cook's machine, which requires no other contrivance or alteration than substituting different cups and funnels.

nels. The quantity of cake used is a quarter of a ton per acre, which has never exceeded 17. 5s. in its price. He assured me that this method had never failed to insure him a good crop, and that it does equally well for wheat.

Having stated, that turnips came into this country from Hanover, one would naturally expect that they were managed to great perfection there, at this time; but I doubt this is not the case, for I had this summer the honour to be introduced to a very intelligent Hanoverian nobleman at Windsor,* who was very inquisitive into the state of Agriculture in England; and upon my conversing with him about turnips, I found that they did not know the use of them there at this time so well as we do; which is a matter of surprise, that an article of such great benefit should ever decline in repute; I doubt it must have arisen from the ground growing tired of them; for which reason I recommend our English farmer to break the succession of the crops, now and then, by substituting vetches or potatoes in lieu of them, which may be easily done without interruption to the succession of his corn crops; and by this means, I am of opinion, this most valuable root may be permanently established in our system of Agriculture.

Hoeing is another essential part of the culture, which is invariably done twice, in a masterly manner, at the expence of six shillings an acre.

Many things have been suggested, to guard against the attack of the fly, but there is no dependence to be placed on any of them; the only precaution consists in ploughing the land till it is very fine, and filling it full of muck. The turnip has also another powerful enemy, which is the black canker. Some people draw a rope over the ridges, two persons holding the opposite ends; this will brush them off, and sometimes save a few acres; but those who can breed

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ducks

* Count Hardenberg.

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ducks enough, may save a greater proportion, as they devour them very fast. There is also another remedy, which, I am informed from the best authority, is practised in some parts of Yorkshire; viz. gathering the insect by hand; which is done from five to eight shillings an acre. Women and children being employed in this useful business at six pence a day, the women; and the children, at three pence, and four pence each, according to their age.

Having thus described the culture of turnips, it may not be amiss to add a word respecting their consumption. In general, they are drawn, and given to neat cattle either in cribs or stalls, which is productive of a vast quantity of muck; or else they are scattered before them, as well as the fatting sheep, upon a dry piece of pasture or stubble; by which means they go much farther than they would if trodden into the dirt, and enrich the land very much upon which they are so thrown; it being understood in Norfolk, that the land wherein they grow, is left in sufficient heart by the manure bestowed upon it for the turnips: so that it is apparent, that by manuring one piece of land, they manure two. Indeed where the land is poor, they draw every other ridge, and feed the other off with sheep, as in other counties; but this it not by any means the general practice.

The barley, after turnips, is generally sown upon a second ploughing, and the grass seeds with it; and as the ground has been effectually cleaned, by five ploughings, the preceding year, it is generally in a fine state when laid down in this manner.

FALLOWING.

FALLOWING EXPLODED.

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observations.

IT is a question with some persons, whether summer fallowing be necessary or not? I am one of those who do not think it is. Nature does not seem to require any pause or rest of this kind; all plants make their annual shoots, as regular as the day succeeds the night. The earth was evidently designed to yield a regular uninterrupted produce; and it does so where we leave it to itself. If you do not sow corn it will produce weeds: its productive quality never ceases. It is therefore our business, by good culture, to expel the unprofitable plant, and introduce another, from which we may derive benefit. The idea of leaving land to rest is ridiculous; keep it clean, and intermix the crops sown upon it judiciously, so that one may fertilize as much as another exhausts; and it may be sown as a garden is planted, from one generation to another. Look at half the common fields in England, where the system established by the old school is called two crops and a fallow. What does this exhibit but a conflict between the farmer and his weeds, in which the latter generally get the better; for they are only half stifled, and never effectually killed.

On the other hand, view this county, which yields a crop every year, without being exhausted; and though the soil in many parts is light and ordinary, by being kept clean, seldom fails of a fair return, which enables the farmer to employ more hands, and give a better rent.

COMMON FIELDS.

For remarks and additional
observations.

THERE is still a considerable deal of common field land in Norfolk, though a much less proportion than in many other counties; for, notwithstanding common rights for great cattle exist in all of them, and even sheep-walk privileges in many, yet the natural industry of the people is such, that wherever a person can get four or five acres together, he plants a white thorn hedge round it, and sets an oak at every rod distance, which is consented to by a kind of general courtesy from one neighbour to another.

It has long been a subject of infinite conjecture, how the land of different estates became originally so scattered and divided in common fields. Many reasons are assigned. But, waving all useless investigation of this sort, I shall briefly consider the disadvantages that land of this description is at present subject to, and endeavour to shew the advantages that would result from laying it more together.

Land, when very much divided, occasions considerable loss of time to the occupier, in going over a great deal of useless space, in keeping a communication with the different pieces. As it lies generally in long narrow slips, it is but seldom it can receive any benefit from cross ploughing and harrowing, therefore it cannot be kept so clean; but what is still worse, there can be but little variety observed in the system of cropping; because the right which every parishioner has of commonage over the field a great part of the year, prevents the sowing of turnips, clover, or other grass seeds, and consequently cramps a farmer in the stock which he would otherwise keep. On the contrary, when land is inclosed, so as to admit of sowing turnips and seeds, which have an improving and meliorating tendency, the same soil
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will, in the course of a few years, make nearly double the return it did before, to say nothing of the wonderful improvements which sometimes result from a loam or clay; which will, when well laid down, often become of twice the permanent value in pasture, that ever it would as ploughed ground. Most striking effects of this sort are to be seen in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and other midland counties. This, indeed, has been urged by some as an argument against inclosing, as they would infer that it lessens the quantity of arable land too much, and tends to make corn dear; but the excess of grazing and ploughing will correct itself. If arable land be laid down, there is a great deal of coarse old pasture land which may be broken up, the turf of which wants renewing; and this old grass land, which could not so well have been spared before, is, of all land, that which is most adapted to the growth of potatoes, hops, hemp, and flax. The markets will ever regulate the proportion of arable and grass land, better than any fixed plan that can be suggested.

If we properly consider the benefits resulting to population from inclosing (though that, as well as the advantages which might be derived from commons, has been superficially questioned) it will strike us with astonishment. Let the population of England be compared with what it was fifty years since, and I presume it will be found increased nearly a third. If I were asked the cause, I should say, that I believe it is chiefly from inclosing; and my reasons for it are, that in all places where my observation has come, it carries full proof. I have seen the effects in many parts of England; but I shall subjoin one striking instance, in this county. The parish of Felbrigg, belonging to Mr. Windham,* consists of about 1300 acres of land, and till the year 1771, remained time out of mind in the following state: 400 acres of inclosed, 100 of wood land, 400 of common field, and 400 of common or heath. By authentic registers at different periods, it appeared

* Member for Norwich.

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peared; that the number of souls had never been known to exceed 124, which was the number in 1745; in 1777, they were only 121; at this time they amount to 174. This rapid increase I attribute chiefly to the recent improvements made in the parish, by inclosing all the common field land, and by converting most of the common into arable land and plantations. The parish has no particular connection with any other, and therefore its own increase of labour and produce must be the principal cause at least of this striking alteration. The parish of Wyburn, which remains uninclosed in this neighbourhood, belonging to Lord Walpole, who possesses, in a very eminent degree, the three great characteristics of a country gentleman, a good magistrate, a good neighbour, and good landlord, is the most like what Felbrigg was before its inclosure, consisting of about the same quantity of common and common fields; but I do not find that the population there has increased of late, which is a corroborating proof of inclosures being in favour of population.

If then, inclosing be found so beneficial, every obstruction to it ought to be removed. In the first place, were there one general Act of Parliament formed, under which any parish that could agree in itself, should be able to take shelter, or even any two or more persons, agreeing upon any exchange of land, or a separation of a mixed interest, whereby the inclosing of such land was the result, should, upon the payment of a small consideration, receive the sanction of a short summary law to bind their agreement. This would insensibly lead to a vast field of improvement.* Something of this sort was lately attempted, but not carried through, and perhaps there might be something exceptionable in the plan.

* If the Board of Agriculture could be authorized by such act to name an umpire to settle differences in point of value between proprietors, it would, in my opinion, facilitate the general business of inclosures very much, as well as many beneficial exchanges of a more private nature.

plan. It is, however, to be wished, that some member of the House of Commons would consider the magnitude and importance of the object, and bring it forward again. If such an attempt be made upon sound and rational principles, I flatter myself the present Minister would not be against its introduction; nor, I trust, at a loss to find the means of removing one of the principal objections to the present mode of inclosing, namely, the great expence, when a bill is solicited, which always operates as a powerful discouragement to undertakings of this kind, and sometimes sets them wholly aside; especially as the fees are double if another parish has the smallest share in the emoluments, though the trouble to those who pass the act is not doubled by it. But this is not all the discouragement; for in the course of obtaining the bill, the evidence must go up to town, and attend a committee of the Commons, afterwards be sworn at the bar of the Lords, and attend their committee also: and as these attendances are often at intervals considerably distant from each other, the evidence must all this time either be supported in town, at a great expence, or make three or four journies; and as this sort of evidence is generally given by professional men whose time is valuable, these delays are very inconvenient, and frequently operate so powerfully upon the minds of people, that many an inclosure is passed over which would otherwise be effected. This in a great measure will account for so many of our commons and common fields having remained so long in their present state. In making these remarks, it is not my meaning to cast reflections upon any quarter, but to awaken the attention of the Legislature and the Board of Agriculture to the importance of the subject, that all possible encouragement may be given to the honest enterprise of individuals; for all improvements in Agriculture, which carry great weight, and in the end become national objects, must be effected by the individual, because it must be the multitude

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tude that cultivate the hidden corners of the earth, and "out of a little make a mickle." Any thing which Government could do in a pecuniary way, by encouraging a few persons in a local situation, will never operate so extensively as the natural exertions of the public: doubtless Government will give the individual all the assistance it can, to remove vexatious obstructions, and smooth the road to honest undertakings which individuals may wish to bring forward. It is likewise presumed, that it would be sound policy in Government so to do, as it will ever derive a proportionate advantage from the industry of the people. I trust, therefore, that the Legislature will see the necessity of contriving a less expensive mode of sanctioning inclosures in general, for the good of mankind, as well as its own emolument.

AVERAGE CROPS.

THERE are some parts of Marshland and the Flegg hundreds which will produce six quarters of wheat, and ten of oats, upon an acre; but in very light parts of the county the farmer is glad to get two quarters of wheat and three of barley. However, I believe the general average crops of the whole county, one year with another, may be estimated as high as three quarters of wheat and four of barley, and other articles in proportion.

In some parts of Marshland there is a considerable deal of rape-seed grown: in the parishes of Outwell, Upwell, Emneth, and some others in the neighbourhood of Wisbeach, there is likewise a considerable deal of hemp and flax sown. The average produce of the former is about forty-five stone, and the latter about forty, which are valuable crops. These articles are of national importance, and if properly considered, no injury to land; for when they are cautiously interwoven

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with other crops, so as not to come round above once in ten or twelve years, it would be well if the cultivation of them was more general.

IRREGULAR CROPS.

THOUGH it is highly proper to confine tenants to a regular system of cropping, yet there are some little variations that, under certain circumstances, they ought occasionally to be indulged in.

When, for instance, a piece of land is well cleaned, mucked, and sown with turnips, and the crop, notwithstanding all possible care, does not succeed; in such case, if the tenant be allowed to sow wheat, and, in the ensuing spring, clover among it, no harm can result from it, as it would have been seeded with barley if they had succeeded.

Sometimes it will happen, that grass seeds will not take root. In such case it would be a hardship to confine a tenant to keep that piece of land in an unproductive state for two years: he should, when this happens, be allowed to take a cross crop, being confined to turnip or vetch it after such extra crop.

The vetch is a most excellent thing; and great advantage may be derived from it in various shapes. If a piece of barley or wheat stubble, which comes in course for turnips, be found tolerably clean and mellow after harvest, it is a good practice to sow vetches upon it, and harrow them in, as soon as the corn is off. They will often produce a great deal of valuable feed for ewes and lambs in the spring, when such kind of assistance is of inestimable worth, and yet admit of the land being got into very good order for turnips. They are likewise of the greatest profit when cut green in the course of

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the summer, and given to cows, and working horses in the stable. An acre, cut and used in this way, will go farther, and do the horses more good, than two acres eaten off in the field: working horses want rest; in the stable they are not teased by flies; besides, the quantity of muck which horses make, so foddered, is prodigious.

Exclusive of these helps from the vetch, a few acres of potatoes, and the drum-headed cabbage, are greatly worth a farmer's attention; and sometimes an acre or two of carrots or lucern is a wonderful help. But above all, where land has a chalk or marl at the bottom, let not faint-foin be forgotten upon such a soil as this; or even where there is gravel under a good surface, it is impossible to say too much in its favour. In this country it is but little known; I believe the first person who brought it into Norfolk was the late Sir Henry L'Estrange; next to him it was countenanced by Mr. Rolfe and the Rev. Armine Styleman; but the greatest planter of it is Mr. Coke, who has, this dry summer, cut two hundred and sixty-five loads of excellent hay, rather exceeding a ton to a load, from one hundred and four acres. This was from a plant of four years old, upon land not worth more, for any other purpose, than twelve shillings an acre. He is so convinced of its great utility, that he has lately laid down an hundred acres more, and has it in contemplation to carry the cultivation still further.

In some parts of Gloucestershire, when the faint-foin is worn out, they pare and burn the surface of it; but though it yields a temporary advantage to the occupier, it is a mortgage without redemption upon the fee-simple of the land, by reducing the staple, and depriving the soil of that native quality which is conducive to the nourishment of the natural grasses. The better way is to scale-plow the surface, and afterwards bury the roots, and give them time to rot, and then it is generally very fertile and kind. Burn-baking, in my opinion, is a very pernicious practice, which I trust will soon be exploded. If
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it is any where to be allowed, it is upon the coarse fenny parts of Lincolnshire; upon a shallow soil it is insufferable.

SCALE OF RENT.

THIS is the most difficult question to answer, with precision, of any the Board requires; for there is nothing so unequal in the kingdom as the rent of land. Corn, and all articles of merchandize, preserve some degree of proportion; but the price of land is so much affected by local circumstances, that it has no regular standard, though it would be a great advantage to agriculture if it had. Persons of small fortune, and tradesmen, when possessed of a little land, are naturally induced to get as much as possible for it; and farmers, above all others, when they become owners, make the worst landlords in the kingdom. It is therefore to large estates that we are to look for moderation in rents, as they are generally let upon a fair and consistent scale. From this consideration more than any other, great estates are of advantage to the public, as they have a tendency to keep the price of land down to a proper level, which otherwise would, in many places, become so excessive as to give no encouragement to an industrious occupier.

As to the general standard, however, of rents in this county, subject to poor rates and tythes, I believe it varies from 20s. to 16s. an acre in the first division of the county, which I have described; from 18s. to 14s. in the second; from 14s. to 8s. in the third; from 12s. to 4s. in the fourth; and, in Marshland hundred, from 30s. to 20s. The average of the whole county is about 14s.; and though this would be a dear rent for the same soil in most other counties, the nature of the husbandry, and the industry of the inhabitants, render it

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easy, and rents are better paid in this county than almost in any other, as there is hardly any such thing as an arrear known; at the same time the farmers live, as they are intitled to do, with comfort.

REPAIRS.

THIS is a consideration of the first magnitude, with respect to landed estates.

That a farmer should have reasonable accommodation cannot admit of a doubt; but it is highly improper that he should be indulged in unreasonable or unsuitable buildings.

Farm-buildings in this county are upon a very respectable footing, but in my opinion they are upon rather too large a scale.

Repairs are chiefly done at the expence of the landlord, and the charge of them is very considerable, not less, as I have found by experience, than ten *per cent.* including materials.

Farmers are very averse to stacking, though wheat is preserved sweeter and better on staddles than in barns: they are always crying out for barn-room; and they certainly are indulged in a greater proportion of it than farmers in any other county. It is not uncommon to have barns upon a 100*l.* a-year which cost 500*l.* there are many single barns that have been lately erected, which have cost considerably more than that sum; and some farm-houses, upon farms of about three hundred pounds a-year, have cost a thousand pounds. This is certainly wrong, for such buildings make a great waste of timber, and are unnecessary, and moreover very bad examples, as one farmer will always covet a similar thing to what he sees his equal in possession of. I should much rather
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see a disposition in the country to build a sufficient number of cottages for the industrious labourers, than to run into an excess of indulgence, where no good purpose can be answered by it.

Having spoken of repairs in a general point of view, I will add a word or two respecting the materials.

The old walls were composed chiefly of clay, or lath and plaister; but all modern buildings are now built with bricks, which are of a very good quality; but the lime is not so good from chalk and marl, as it is in countries where it is made from the stone.

The covering is of three kinds, Dutch tile generally for the houses, and the common pan tiles for stables and barns, or sea or marsh reed, which is excellent in quality, and neatly put on. The general costs for reed and workmanship, and every thing complete, is a guinea a square. No covering is so good as this, as it will preserve a roof twice as long as tile. When straw is made use of for thatch, it is put on in the same slovenly bruised state as in other counties, except in the west of England, where their whole process of thatching with straw deserves imitation, and which I trust will be described in the Reports for Somerset and Dorset.

EXAMINATION OF CATTLE.

NEXT to a farmer's finding out what husbandry is most suitable to the soil he occupies, he should find out what cattle will answer his purpose best; some reverence is due to what his forefathers and ancient custom have sanctioned, therefore he will do wrong to part with the stock that has long been naturalized to the soil, till he has time and opportunity fully to satisfy

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satisfy himself that a change will be permanently for the better. But if he can be well satisfied that he can make a change to advantage, it is incumbent on him to yield to conviction, by the adoption of it.

Great part of this county is known to have been, within the space of a century, a wild, bleak, unproductive country, comparatively with what it now is; full half of it was rabbit warrens and sheep-walks; the sheep were as natural to the soil as the rabbits, being hardy in their nature, and of an agile construction, so as to move over a great deal of space with little labour. When great tracts of this land were brought into a better state of cultivation, the Norfolk sheep gave great aid to the new improvement, as they fetched their sustenance from a considerable distance, and answered penning as well as any sheep whatever. Folding became in high estimation, and, aided by marling, brought the improvement of the county rapidly forward. Soon after, the turnip system followed, which enabled the farmer to improve his stock considerably by better keeping; so that at this time they are become respectable and profitable in their return, and in as high estimation at Smithfield as any sheep whatever, for no better mutton can be put upon a table; and, though they produce but little wool, it is of a good quality. Notwithstanding this, there are some gentlemen, and some considerable farmers too, who begin to dislike, or at least affect to despise them, and prefer the Lincoln and Leicester breed. I am perfectly willing to leave the gentlemen to adopt the change to what extent they please; and will admit, that in Marshland hundred, in parks, and in small rich inclosures in the vicinity of towns, they are very profitable stock. But I have no patience with the great farmer, in suffering himself to be lulled into so gross an error; for he will never be able to substitute any other sheep that will answer penning so well as the native sheep. The heavy Leicestershire sheep has not activity enough

to move over a sufficiency of ground to get his living, and therefore can never answer folding. If the great farmer gives up folding, he loses all his consequence, as he cannot keep up his land so well by any other means, and commits upon himself a sort of *felo de se*: for the greatest argument that has ever been advanced in favour of large in preference to small farms, has been, that, by a man's occupying a large tract of land, he is enabled to keep a large flock of sheep, which tends highly to its improvement, which small farmers cannot do, and therefore are not able to make so much of poor land as the great farmer. When, therefore, a great farmer, who used to pen a large flock of sheep, ceases to pen any, which, I am sorry to observe, begins to be very much the case in the neighbourhood of Dorking, and many other light parts of the county, it is time for landlords to open their eyes, and put these large tracts of land into more hands, which would be a great blessing to the country. There is no part of England where there are more industrious husbandmen, with small capitals, making daily applications for little farms, than in Norfolk: at the same time it is common, in the west part of it, to let farms of 1000*l.* a-year; and there is one of 1700*l.** I look upon this as bad policy in landlords, as they have only the choice of one tenant where they might have twenty; and it certainly has a bad tendency, with respect to the public, in more instances than one. But, to return from this digression to the Norfolk sheep, it seems to me pretty obvious why the great farmers give up penning, instead of keeping their wethers till they are three years old, as formerly; they now make a point of sending them fat to Smithfield, at two years old, which they could not do if they were to fold them a season first. This method of quick grazing has long been practised in the east end and other rich parts of the county, where farms and inclosures are small, and the land warm; but it is only a recent custom.

* Belonging to Mr. North of Roughton.

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custom upon the great farms in the open west end of the county; and I am apprehensive, that unless the landlords interfere, and oblige their tenants, upon such large farms, to fold a stipulated quantity of land every year, that many of the light parts will revert back to something like their pristine state.

Crossing the breed should be done with great caution; and, in general, it is best to keep each sort of cattle as distinct as possible in its kind, as every sort possesses some particular advantages: but, when land becomes much improved, stock may be improved in proportion; and in some instances the breed may be crossed with propriety; but there ought always to be some affinity or similitude between the cattle which are crossed. It is a manifest incongruity to match a horned bull with a Suffolk polled cow, or a Norfolk and a Leicester sheep; or a Norfolk and a South Down, or any long-wooled sheep, with a short-wooled: but a Leicestershire sheep may be matched, with some degree of propriety, with a Cotswold; and a South Down sheep with a Berkshire or a Herefordshire ryland.

The cows which are natives cannot be much admired; they are small, with turned-up horns, and generally of a red colour; but, of late years, the Suffolk polled cow of the dun colour is much introduced; it is not indeed quite so hardy, but, where the pasture is tolerably good, is certainly more profitable.

Oxen are very little used in this county for labour; * and those grazed are chiefly brought from Scotland or Ireland, which

* It were a good thing for this county, and England in general, if oxen were more used than they are. In many instances, they are nearly equal to horses in point of utility, and in point of economy they are full thirty *per cent.* cheaper. It was with real pleasure that I some time since learnt, that Lord Hawke, whose experiments in husbandry are extensive in Yorkshire, has set an example of ploughing with two oxen only, which is attended with complete success, as they plough nearly as much as an equal number of horses: and if the cheapness of their keep, and other circumstances are considered, they are certainly preferable to horses.

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which are in general found to answer better than those which are home-bred. They are generally bought in the autumn ; and, if they are in forward condition, one acre of turnips will put from five to six pounds profit upon an ox by Lady-day or May-day following. Those which are not so forward are kept upon offal turnips in the winter, and fatted off in the marshes by harvest, when they frequently double their price within the year, which in either case I consider as a very profitable scale of grazing.

The horses I have described in another place.

The pigs are remarkably thin-haired, and small, compared to the Hampshire or Herefordshire breed, but very prolific, and the pork excellent ; yet the inhabitants have no idea of making bacon.

The poultry is superlatively good, especially the turkey, which has no equal, at least in flavour, which I attribute to the dryness of the soil, and to the greater range which they have more than in other counties.

The game is still in great plenty, though not equal to what it was formerly. Many of the gentlemen are too tenacious of it, which makes the farmer, its natural guardian, less careful to preserve it ; and it is too often a source of discord in the county.

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF LEASES CONSIDERED.

THE ancient feudal tenures had undoubtedly a strong tendency to enslave mankind, by subjecting tenants to the controul and power of an arbitrary lord ; but like all other things, there were some advantages to be found in the system. Every

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man who held land, had a certainty in it, as the tenant generally held his possession for life. When these tenures were discountenanced by the liberal spirit of modern law, some new compact became necessary, and terms of years were substituted in lieu of the former; for as land properly managed, requires great expence, and seldom answers that expence in one year, it was but reasonable that the man who applied his judgment, devoted his labour, and ventured his capital, should have some reasonable time allowed him to reimburse himself, and derive some proportionate reward for what he had done.

In the course of time, this term began to be reduced into a regular number of years. As most of the land was formerly under the regulation of two crops and a fallow, the time allowed was from three to twenty-one years, and the latter in the end became the most general limitation, and is the most prevalent term for leases at this time.

That leases are the first, the greatest, and most rational encouragements that can be given to Agriculture, admits not of a doubt, in my opinion; but of late years there are very strong prejudices entertained against them. In this county it is rather the fashion to grant leases, which in a great measure accounts for the improvements that have taken place in it; most of the great estates have been made from it: for without leases no marling to any extent would have been undertaken, nor so much ground brought into cultivation, by one-third, as there now is. The Holkam estate alone strongly proves this assertion, as it has been increased in the memory of man, from five to upwards of twenty thousand pounds a year, in this county only, and is still increasing like a snow ball. Mr. Coke, the present owner of it, is a real friend to Agriculture, and justly considered as one of the best landlords in the county. From my particular knowledge of him, I can say, that at least two years before his leases expire, he puts the tenant upon a footing of certainty, by stating to him

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him the terms he expects for a renewal of his lease, that he may have time to look out for another farm, in case he does not like the conditions that are offered to him; but though the advance of rent is often very great, I have never seen an instance of any tenant leaving him, unless grown too far in years to be able to continue. The stipulations and reservations in his leases are founded, too, upon principles of equity, and consist in no unnecessary repetition, or unreasonable exactions, being couched in plain terms, such as ought to compose a liberal contract between a gentleman and an industrious tenant; which may be worth imitation in those who are fond of crowding their leases with overbearing compulsory clauses, tending more to create obedience and servility in their tenants, than to promote good husbandry. There are some few estates in this county of a very considerable size, where leases are entirely withheld; but it is evident, that these estates are obliged to be let for at least twenty per cent. less than what they would be if leases were granted. In many other counties the prejudice is so strong, that an owner would almost as soon alienate the fee simple of his estate, as demise it for a term of years. I will not be so harsh as to say, that this dislike to leases arises from obstinacy or want of sense, but it is certainly an unfortunate prejudice which the proprietor takes up, and tends greatly to injure the public. One of the arguments made use of is, that it makes the tenant insolent and independent. There may be some few instances of this sort, but they ought not to be allowed to operate to the general injury of a country, however indifferent a gentleman may be to the advantage of his own purse. A man of large landed property owes, in my opinion, something to society, and ought to get rid of his prejudices, where they affect the community. Providence, who put him in possession of his property, undoubtedly meant that he should in some sort act as a public steward, and it cannot be right that he should wrap up the talent entrusted to his care in a napkin.

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It grieves me to go into a country, which I often do, and find it almost in a state of nature, because the soil, being wet and expensive to cultivate, the tenant cannot afford to do it without encouragement, and the owner's insurmountable objection to leases, keeps him from granting the sort of encouragement which is essentially necessary. The yeomanry in such parts, are upon a wretched miserable footing, the public sustains a vast loss, and the owner has in lieu of the comfort he might bestow, and the good he might do, no other consolation than that he has the county more at command. But even this is a mistake; for I have, except in a few instances, always found a tenant as obliging and well behaved to his landlord, when he had a lease as when he had not.

The arguments in favour of leases seem to me so powerful, that I could not, on this occasion, suppress giving my full sentiments relating to them; and it seems unreasonable, to the greatest degree, to expect a tenant to hazard all he is worth, and devote the best part of his life, upon an estate, which, upon the death, or perhaps the mere caprice, of his landlord, he is liable to be turned out of at six months notice. I will not, however, deny, that there may be some reasonable exceptions against the practice I wish to recommend, where lands lie near a gentleman's house, part of which it may be an object to take into hand; or, if a minor be very near of age, or if there be any immediate design of selling an estate, it is not prudent to grant leases, because, in the latter case, a purchaser may wish to enter into immediate possession, and may have particular objects in view, which will induce him to give a higher price than he would, under the idea of purchasing merely to pay him a reasonable interest. But, except in these instances, leases, in my opinion, cannot be too strongly recommended; for I am certain, that, where estates are under an entail, or in a family that has no idea of parting with them, leasing is unquestionably the most effectual means of raising their value, as the owner by this means has it in his power to stipulate

stipulate for improvements, in what manner and proportion he pleases, which he cannot do by any other means so well.

PLANTING,

AS far as relates to the embellishment of gentlemen's seats, has kept pace in this county with most other parts of England. Great bodies of firs, intermixed with a less number of forest-trees, have been planted, by most of the gentlemen of large fortune, in their parks and home-grounds; but the planting of pits, angles, and great screens, upon the distant parts of their estates, which I conceive to be a greater object of improvement, has been but little attended to. I shall mention two or three plantations, and add a hint upon this subject, which I flatter myself will deserve notice.

Mr. Marsham of Stratton ranks first in priority, as he (like the late Lord Bathurst) has planted trees with his own hand that he might sell for four or five pounds a-piece, if he chose to cut them down. The world is likewise much indebted to him for several ingenious publications, explanatory of some curious and laudable experiments, for facilitating the growth of timber, by keeping the bark clean from moss, and opening the surface of the earth round the trees to let moisture and air into the roots: and though this assistance cannot be given to trees upon a very large scale, it may often be adopted in favourite spots, and small plantations, to great advantage, as I understand that he has one particular tree of his own planting, which has been so assisted in its growth, that it would sell for upwards of ten pounds; and he has so judiciously scattered a great number of trees on the sides of the road near his residence, by planting them in the Flemish stile,

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without their heads, that they have flourished extremely, and changed the dreary prospect of a poor common to an agreeable sylvan scene.

Mr. Berney of Brecon ranks next as a planter, in point of date, as he has paid great attention to it for upwards of fifty years. In the year 1757, he obtained the honour of a silver medal for a large plantation of oaks.—His Spanish chefnuts are very fine, many of them fourteen or fifteen inches girt, and his larch as much; and he has the merit of having done more to establish the credit of the latter than any other person I know: he has put it to almost all the purposes of buildings, such as principals, spars, lath, and boards; likewise to many cabinet uses, such as doors, tables, window-frames, book-cases, chimney-pieces, and many beautiful specimens in carving. In short, he entertains the highest opinion of it; and, having made observations upon the proper season for felling it, as well as all other firs, he recommends it to be done in the months of July or August, as he has found, by experience, that the liquid which oozes out at that time of the year, almost immediately turns to a sort of rosin, which operates as a stiptic, so that the wood is not so much drained as at other seasons, but hardens, and comes into use sooner, which is a hint worth notice.

Among the modern planters, Mr. Coke unquestionably ranks foremost. He has planted, since he has been in possession of his estate, four hundred and eighty acres of different kinds of plants, two-thirds of which are meant to be thinned and cut down for underwood, so as to leave oak, Spanish chefnut, and beech, only as timber. His intention is to continue to plant fifty acres every year, till he has completely environed three thousand acres of land, which is to compose his park and demesne farm. These plantations already afford great cheerfulness; and, as the ground has more variety than many other parts of Norfolk, they will give a bold effect, and be truly

correspondent to the magnificent seat they are meant to ornament. I cannot quit Holkham without taking notice of a very commendable part of Mr. Coke's practice in planting, which is, his allowing the neighbouring poor to plant potatoes among his young trees, the first two or three years, which is a great comfort to them, keeps his land effectually clean, and saves him a considerable expence in hoeing.

Mr. Windham of Felbrigg is also a considerable modern planter. His plantations are designed to answer two purposes, to ornament and belt round his park, and to extend his great woodland scene nearer the sea, towards which, at two miles distance it forms a grand bulwark, and from which he looks down an easy declivity, over a bold shore, to an unlimited prospect on the German Ocean. Most of his plantations have been raised from seed; and there is one that stands unrivalled; it was sown with acorns, Spanish chestnut, and beech-mast, seventeen years since; has been already twice thinned for hurdle-wood; the trees, most of which are thirty feet high, being at the regular distance of twelve feet, with a valuable underwood at four feet distance. This plantation was taken out of the park, was well fallowed the preceding summer to its being sown, and, during this state, there was a flock of sheep in the park, which were continually laying on the fallows, to which, in a great measure, I attribute its astonishing floridity, as it surpasses every thing of the kind I ever saw, and therefore I mention this as a thing worth attending to. There is another plantation which is highly deserving notice and imitation; it is a belt sixty-fix yards wide and nine miles round, inclosing the estate of Mr. Galwey of Tofis, near Thetford. The merit of this plantation justly belongs to Mr. Griffin of Mundford, who advised Mr. Nelson, whose estate it was formerly, to this undertaking. It was planted with a variety of trees at six feet apart, and cost ten pounds an acre. It was begun in 1770, and completed in 1778. It

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has been thinned several times; and the trees, if sold at this time, would be worth fifty pounds per acre. But the advantage it is to the estate, to say nothing of its ornament, is not to be described, as it affords shelter and warmth to cattle, which next to food, contribute to their health and thrift; so that the land is increased in value considerably. In short, if Mr. Galwey would now line his belt with deciduous trees, such as birch, beech, and chestnut, to repel the wind, which now begins to draw through the bottom of the plantation, as it consists chiefly of firs, it would enhance the value of his estate a full third.

There is great advantage in planting a large body of wood in a naked country, which is not at first perceived. Where there is nothing to resist the cold winds, vegetation and cattle are cut to death, and nothing rich from the atmosphere can be retained. But plantations stop the rapid current of the air, collect a density which helps to enrich the surface of the earth; and, moreover, by giving warmth and comfort to cattle, half the fodder will satisfy them; and by degrees, as the cattle couch under shelter, the soil by degrees improves. This is clear to demonstration, by taking a view of Lord Petre's Park, which in the midst of a barren, dreary country, forms an agreeable shady retreat, covered with a pleasant verdure, and richly ornamented with forest trees of large dimensions. His Lordship is now considerably extending his plantations with great taste and success, to the open parts which lie on the outside of his estate.

I wish to impress all men of fortune with the importance of extending their plantations to the distant parts of their estates, where soil and situation are suitable, and not merely content themselves with the environs of their own demesne: and that they may be informed how valuable the Spanish chestnut is above most other trees, I take the liberty, on this occasion, to refer them to a letter of mine upon that subject, published in the Transactions of the Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, for the year 1792.

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Before I quit this subject, I will venture to recommend another tree to the attention of all planters upon poor light lands, which seems to exceed most others in growth. It is the tall straight growing pinafter, which is frequently planted with Scotch firs; and when they grow up together, by many incurious people, is taken for a Scotch fir. But I have always remarked its superiority of size when mixed with it, and of the same age. In short, it frequently grows as fast as an alder, or an ash, and therefore, if it be planted merely with a view of being cut down for fuel, it will be found a very profitable tree in many parts of England; but as it will grow to a very large size, it will, in my opinion, be found applicable to many useful purposes, as it admits of being cut into very large scantlings. As a decided proof of its advantage over the Scotch fir in growth, and consequently in value, I need only state, that about forty years since, his late Royal Highness William Duke of Cumberland made a plantation of nearly a hundred acres on a remarkably poor sandy land, adjoining to Bagshot Heath, in Surry, chiefly with Scotch firs, but with a smaller proportion of pinasters intermixed with them. The plantation is reckoned to have succeeded extremely well, and has been a great ornament to the country; but the Scotch firs do not average more than five cubical feet, whilst the pinasters are full forty; some of them I have measured, and found to be upwards of seventy feet.

IMPLEMENTS.

THE plough deserves the first notice, as it is compact and light in its construction, as I have shewn, page 15; does its work remarkably clean, and is easily managed with one handle. The harrows are no ways remarkable.

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The waggon is remarkably heavy, which is the less necessary, as none of the roads are rocky. It has, however, one advantage in being made to lock so far under the bed, that it will turn as short as a post chaise.

The cart is likewise heavier than is necessary; and three-wheeled tumbrels are seldom used, though they would often save thirty per cent. in the expence of marling.

There is one thing frequently practised in hay and corn harvest, which is, the adding a couple of temporary forewheels and a frame to the common carts, which answers the purpose of a waggon; and in little farms, it is a real object of frugality, and in large ones a great help in a busy season. It is called an hermaphrodite, and I here subjoin a sketch of it; noting, that the blue part is the original cart, and the red, the part which is added.*

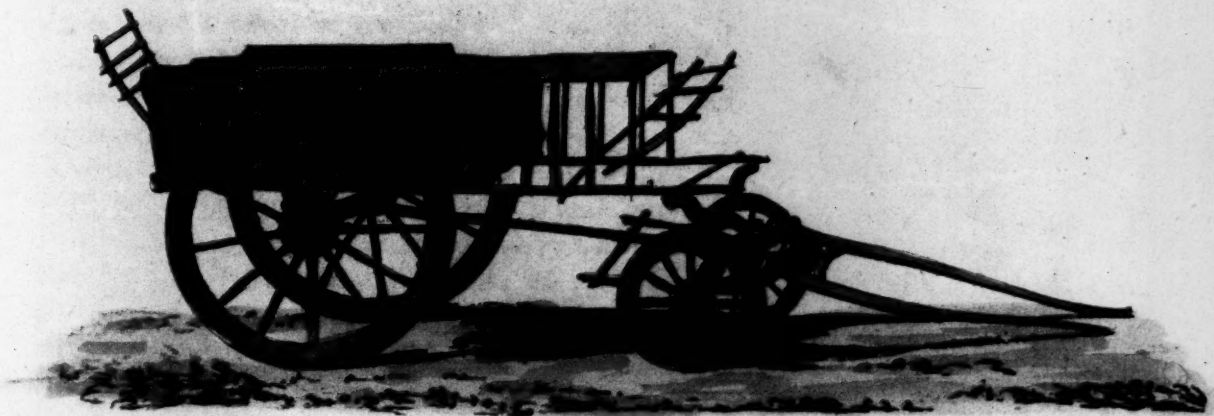
PRICE OF LABOUR.

THE standing wages for a labourer in husbandry, is now almost generally raised to 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and 1s. 2d. in winter; and there is no country where the labourer does a fairer day's work. The price of threshing is also fixed to 2s. a quarter for wheat, and 1s. for barley; and many extra jobs are done by the great, which is always the most pleasant contract between master and man; and the oftener work can be done in this way the better.

The poor rates having increased in this county in proportion to others, several houses of industry have been established;

* The Berkshire waggon, of which I subjoin a sketch, is what I recommend to the attention of the Norfolk farmers, being a horse's draft lighter than their own when loaded, and being calculated to carry larger loads, and much lower, which is a great convenience.

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blished ; but they are grievous things in the eyes of the poor, and, I am afraid, are not found to answer the end that was expected from them. I know of no law that can enforce industry : it may be encouraged, and great good will result from it ; but it never can be effected by compulsion.

There are two principles which should be kept alive as much as possible in the minds of the poor—pride and shame : the former will lead them to the attainment of comfort by honest means ; and the latter will keep them from becoming burthensome to their neighbours. But many of the modern plans, for making provisions for them, have tended to destroy these principles.

A man born to no inheritance, who assiduously devotes his whole life to labour, when nature declines, ought to be distinguished from the lazy and profligate wretch, who has seldom worked but by force. One ought not to be crowded into the same habitation with the other ; but in houses of industry there can be no distinction.

The social clubs for mutual relief, which are prevalent in many parts of the west of England, are highly commendable ; and, perhaps, as well worth the attention of the Board of Agriculture, as any object they can take up. If a little encouragement could be given to these laudable societies, which are now sanctioned by law, and proper places of security could be established for their little funds, it would tend very much to encourage the poor to struggle with their difficulties ; and it would be consistent with sound policy, as well as humanity, in the rich and opulent, to add little donations, to the poor man's nest egg, on these occasions. Earl Harcourt's example at Newnham, in Oxfordshire, is well deserving imitation : if a poor man puts a penny into the social box, he puts in another ; if a farmer or tradesman contributes a shilling, he adds another ; and by this means his Lordship's estate is kept in high credit ; the poor rates are low, and the spirit of the peasantry unbroken.

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In this county it is evident, that the labourer who can keep a cow or a pig, is always a faithful servant to the farmer who employs him. He has a stake in the common interest of the country, and is never prompt to riot in times of sedition, like the man who has nothing to lose; on the contrary, he is a strong link in the chain of national security.

There are but few great farmers inclined to accommodate cottagers with a little land, and when they do let them any, it is generally at double the rent they give for it. But I am persuaded, that if there were a certain number of cottages, in proportion to the size of the estates, and they were accommodated with a couple of acres of land, to enable them to keep a cow, and near two or three pigs, and those places were bestowed as a reward to labourers of particular good conduct, it would do wonders towards the reduction of the rates, and the preservation of order; and I have been witness to several striking proofs of this, in two or three labourers, who have been thus favoured, and who were so far from being prompt to riot, that their attachment to their masters was exemplary, as they were not only steady in themselves, but by their example kept others from running into excess. There cannot well be too many of these places, attached to large farms; they would be the most prolific cradles of the best sort of population.

There is another thing which it is incumbent on all occupiers of land to do, which is, to supply their own labourers with wheat at a moderate price, when the price in the market is high and oppressive to them. It is but reasonable, that the human servant should fare as well as the animal servant: a farmer does not give his horse a less quantity of oats, because they are dear, nor is it reasonable, that the ploughman or thresher in the barn should have less for his penny, because his master gets a great price; but I do not mean to say this should be extended to manufacturers, because they are in general better paid than labourers in agriculture, and have

not so immediate a claim upon the land, as the workmen in the vineyard.

If one thing, in aid of what I have taken the liberty to suggest, could be established, it would perhaps go near to remedy all grievances; and in a great measure set aside the necessity of the poor laws, and this would be the adoption of something like Mr. Ackland's scheme of taxing labour for its own support, by levying from the young and lusty, a penny to be put out upon accumulated interest, for the advantage of the old and decrepid. Age and infirmity would then dip its hand into the purse it had helped to fill; honest pride would be preserved, industry encouraged, and the latter part of a poor man's life would terminate in comfort.

SUPERABUNDANT PRODUCE.

A COUNTRY is usually denominated good or bad, in proportion to its general produce. If its Agriculture does not produce more, in the whole, than what is sufficient to support itself, and its own rural trades, it must evidently be *minus* in the common scale of production, and fall under the latter description; because every country must at least look for assistance from some clothing manufactory, though foreign luxuries were totally out of the question. But if the husbandry of any particular district can support itself and its local trades, and furnish half as much as it consumes, either to encourage manufactures at home, or to supply foreign markets, it is justly intitled to the former character.

That Norfolk will stand eminently high in reputation, when viewed in this light, will not admit of a doubt from any person who is sufficiently acquainted with its powers. But

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As speculations of this sort may be new to many persons who may peruse these remarks, I shall endeavour to explain through what channels this great abundance swells to such a head, that imitation may secure the same advantages, where congeniality of circumstances will admit of it.

In a good corn year, when there is a free exportation, it has been said, that the four Norfolk ports export as much corn as all the rest of England, which I believe to be true, for it is seldom less than a million sterling in value, and often more; and though some of the corn comes down the Wavenny out of Suffolk, and some down the Ouze from two or three of the midland counties, this addition seldom bears the proportion of more than an eighth part of the Yarmouth export, and a third of the Lynn, which is not more than a tenth upon the whole.

The following is the nearest calculation I can make of the usual excess of corn, and other articles of provision, sent yearly out of the county, after reserving, not only a sufficiency for its people employed in agriculture, but for fifty thousand home manufacturers and six thousand seamen.

The corn I am able to state with accuracy, as I have obtained it from the Customhouse-books, where the quantity exported is registered. The cattle I cannot be so confident of; but I have taken all the pains in my power, to glean up the best information that could be obtained; and where I have deduced any thing from comparison, I have taken care to be within the limits of justification. The bridges of St. Germain and Magdalen, ascertain, in some degree, the number of Scotch and Irish cattle brought into the county; and the turnpikes leading out of the county, together with the assistance which I have had from Mr. Archer, and other intelligent salesmen at Smithfield and St. Ives, enable me to come pretty near to what I conceive to be the truth.

Last year there were actually 20,594 fat bullocks, brought from Norfolk to Smithfield and Islington, and about 3,000 to

St.

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St. Ives and other places; but either from the war, or some other cause, this is considered rather as a larger supply than usual; but they may be safely taken at 20,000 as a yearly average, about one quarter of which are home-bred beasts, and the remainder Scotch and Irish. The sheep are supposed to be upwards of 30,000; at least they may be safely taken at that number. Objects, such as swine, butter, rabbits, poultry, &c. are not of so much consequence; but suffice it, that they shall all be moderately estimated.

The return from the Norwich manufactory I shall not include in my aggregate, * as there is a great importation of coarse wool to support it from Lincolnshire and other parts: nor shall I set any value upon the whale or mackarel fisheries, as they are very precarious; but as the herring fishery is a permanent, though also a variable branch of provincial profit, and is wholly fed and supported by the county, I think it fair to include it.

I shall begin my recapitulation with the corn, which is to be considered as *the yearly average* which has been exported to foreign ports and coastways, for the last three years, which were far from being prime ones.

The excess of each species of grain, after deducting an equal quantity to balance what is occasionally imported, and also an eighth part from the port of Yarmouth, upon all grain
for

* In short, I consider manufactures as an object deserving a separate investigation. But they are undoubtedly more deserving of encouragement in a productive than in a sterile country; especially where the industry of the inhabitants is singularly meritorious, as is the case at Norwich, where new objects of manufacture have recently been introduced since the woollen has declined: but still it would be better if the manufactory, which has been so long familiar to the city, could be encouraged, so as to regain its former splendour and extent, which it is supposed might be the case, if, through the assistance of Government, a free communication could be opened with China, where, if I am rightly informed, the Norwich goods are in a considerable degree of credit.

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for the supposed proportion furnished by Suffolk, and a third from Lynn, (upon all except barley) supposed to come down the Ouze out of the midland counties. But it is conjectured, as much barley goes up the Ouze as comes down it. Premising this, the account will stand thus :

FROM YARMOUTH.

	Quarters.	Pr. per Qr. at	Amount.		Tot. of Exports.
			L. s. d.	L. s. d.	
Wheat, -	22466	2 4 0	49425	4 0	
Wheat Flour, -	30578	2 16 0	85618	8 0	
Barley, -	129884	1 4 0	155860	16 0	
Malt, -	66579	2 0 0	133158	0 0	
Rye, -	1315	1 5 0	1643	15 0	
Pease, -	6116	1 8 0	8562	8 0	
Beans, -	10440	1 4 0	12528	0 0	
			446796	11 0	
From which take, for 7479 quarters of oats imported more than were export- ed, at 17s. a quarter,			6356	3 0	

Net exports from Yarmouth, 440440 8 0

FROM LYNN.

	Quarters.	Pr. per Qr. at	Amount.	
			L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Wheat, -	30016	2 4 0	66035	4 0
Wheat Flour, -	3138	2 16 0	8786	8 0
Barley, -	112944	1 4 0	135532	16 0
Malt, -	10703	2 0 0	21406	0 0
Rye, -	12298	1 5 0	15372	10 0
Pease, -	3855	1 8 0	5397	0 0
Beans, -	4708	1 4 0	5649	12 0
Vetches, -	73	1 10 0	109	10 0
Rape Seed, -	2423	1 16 0	4361	8 0
			262650	8 0
From which take, for 4993 quarters of oats imported more than were ex- ported, at 17s. a quarter,			4244	1 0

The net exports from Lynn, 258406 7 0

N. B. The excess of linseed imported is about equal to the mustard-seed exported.

Carried forward, £ 698846 13 0

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Tot. of Exports.

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Brought forward, 698846 15 0

FROM WELLS.

	Quarters.	Pr. per Qr. at	Amount.		
			L.	S.	D.
Wheat, -	4186	2 4 0	9209	4	0
Wheat Flour, -	2554	2 16 0	7375	4	0
Barley, -	58376	1 4 0	70051	4	0
Malt, -	20464	2 0 0	20928	0	0
Rye, -	397	1 5 0	496	5	0
Pease, -	2150	1 8 0	3010	0	0
			111069	17	0
From which take, for 2553 quarters of oats imported over and above the quan- tity exported, at 17s. -			2170	1	0

Neat exports from Wells, 308899 16 0

FROM BLACKENEY AND CLAY.

	Quarters.	Pr. per Qr. at	Amount.		
			L.	S.	D.
Wheat, -	6378	2 4 0	14031	12	0
Wheat Flour, -	785	2 16 0	2198	0	0
Barley, -	59176	1 4 0	71011	4	0
Malt, -	2525	2 0 0	5050	0	0
Rye, -	46	1 5 0	57	10	0
Pease, -	1240	1 8 0	1736	0	0
From which take the excess of 364 quarters of oats imported, at 17s. a quarter, -			94084	6	0
			309	8	0

Neat exports of Blackeney and Clay, 93774 18 0

Total amount of the whole county, after deducting for the
Suffolk and midland proportion, £ 901521 9 0

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observations.

CATTLE.

	L.	S.	D.	L.	S.	D.
5000 home-bred bullocks, at 10l.	50000	0	0			
15,000 Scotch and Irish, the fattening profit of which may be set at 5l. each,	75000	0	0			
30,000 sheep, at 1l. 15s.	52500	0	0			
Swine, not less than	10000	0	0			
Rabbits, at least	10000	0	0			
Dairy articles, about	5000	0	0			
Poultry and game,	3000	0	0			
Wool, conjectured to be about	20000	0	0			
The herrings exported,	50000	0	0			
Add, for corn, grain, flour, &c. as before stated,				275500	0	0
				901521	9	0
Total yearly produce sent out of the county,				1177021	9	0

I have purposely brought the whole into money, with a view of shewing with the greater ease, what number of persons this extra, or superabundant produce is equal to the support of. And if we apportion ten pounds for the sustenance of a human being one with another, which must be acknowledged to be a liberal allowance where luxuries are excluded; it will appear that this county sends out a foreign supply for upwards of 117000 persons. And if we take the 56,000 employed in the home manufactures and navigation, from the whole population of the county, it will shew, that the county furnishes more than a sufficiency for double the number of persons employed in agriculture and its appendant trades.

Every impartial man, who considers this vast produce, must be struck with astonishment; and as Norfolk is far from being naturally a good country, it must, undoubtedly, be to art and industry, that this great source of treasure is to be ascribed. It is evidently so great, that no part of England, not even the famous vales of Taunton, White Horse, or Evesham, are supposed to exceed it in proportion of corn.

Government must certainly draw from this county a much greater portion of revenue, than from any other; for as nearly
one

For remarks and additional
observations.

one third part of all the arable land is sown with barley every year, and as the barley crop is generally very good, (half of it being sown upon clean land after turnips) the return which it must make, when traced through the malt house, brewhouse, and distillery, will be found to amount to a sum almost incredible.

I do not exhibit this statement as a panegyric on the county; but to point out to the Board of Agriculture how beneficial this kind of husbandry is above all others; not only to the individual, but to the public revenue; a most powerful argument this, for Government to give all possible encouragement to inclosures in general; and a grand inducement for other countries to follow the like course of husbandry, wherever the soil will admit of it.

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CONCLUSION.

THOUGH I have in this Report given great commendation to many practices of husbandry, which I think deserve imitation, it is incumbent on me, for the sake of justice, to take notice of a few things, which are reprehensible. The harvest, a very important branch of husbandry, is gathered in a very slovenly manner. Women and boys are seldom employed in any part of it. A certain number of men are provided according to the number of acres of corn; in the best parts of the county, ten or twelve acres is the allowance to a man; in the light parts, fifteen or sixteen acres. The man is boarded extremely well, and his allowance in money is generally two guineas, whether the harvest is long or short. The first thing the farmer aims at, is to time the beginning of his harvest, so that his corn may follow in succession, that no interval or pause may take place; as the boarding of his men is attended with great expence, and therefore the sooner he can get the work through, the less it will cost him in provisions. This narrow idea often costs him nearly a tenth part of the value of his crop, for he seldom begins reaping his wheat, so soon, by ten days or a fortnight, as he ought; though wheat is always the better for being cut rather early. It often stands till the ears turn down in an inverted state, and till it is so ripe and brittle, that when there happens to be a brisk wind, it is no uncommon thing to see four or five bushels of wheat whipt out and lost, and sometimes a quarter of oats.

The barley is always carried from the swarth, so that they never begin to carry till late in the day; and no part of the
ground

ground is raked till afterwards; so that a vast deal of corn is trodden out. After the bulk of it is carried, the piece is drag-raked, by men, with iron teeth drags; or by a drag fastened to a pair of wheels, and drawn by a horse. The latter is the best practice of the two, though they are both bad; for the rakings are so ~~ext~~ with grit and dust, that the corn is of an inferior quality to the other. It cannot be doubted, but the practice of other countries is to be preferred to what is observed here.

In the first place, the husband is feeding with unusual luxury, while the wife and children are starving. It would certainly be more comfortable if they undertook the reaping and mowing of a certain number of acres; in which case the man might work with his family, and his wife and children would earn something considerable, not only in the reaping part, but in the cocking and raking the lent grain, which would enable them to eat a comfortable morsel together. There would not, if this was the case, be half so much corn shelled and lost; and the barley, in a wet season, would be better preserved, and admit of being carried much earlier in the morning from the cock, than it can from the swarth.

Stacking is another thing which is very ill done here, particularly wheat stacks, though they are somewhat improved too, in making them of late years; but they run them up in a long rickety form, without symmetry, and seldom set them upon staddles, to preserve the corn from vermin. Another very bad practice relates to their fences. No farmers raise a white thorn hedge sooner, or destroy it so soon; every other time of cutting hedges of this sort, they are buck-stalled, as it is called, which is cutting the whole hedge off at about three feet from the ground, which is an irreparable injury to it, by checking the growth, and making it hollow at the bottom. And as to other thorns and stubble wood, they are apt to cut it as their immediate wants require it, at all seasons
of

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observations.

of the year, and to leave the stool in a jagged state, so as to admit the wet into it, which causes it to decay.

Thus I have, without extenuation or exaggeration, given a faithful account of the present state of husbandry in this county; and the intelligent farmer, in ~~other~~ parts, will be under no difficulty in determining what parts to adopt, and what to reject. If any farther questions are necessary, I shall be ready to answer them; and in the mean while, I recommend Mr. Ewen of Norwich, a Land Agent of the first respectability; and Mr. Repton, of Oxhead near Aylsham, (brother to the ingenious Mr. Repton, so justly famed for his taste in the embellishment of gentlemen's seats) as valuable correspondents to the Board of Agriculture.

NATHANIEL KENT.

CRAIG'S COURT, }
7th Dec. 1793. }

